

Chambers of Chief Bankruptcy Judge John J. Thomas *continued*

Government: Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania (1974-1985); First Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania (1984-1985)

Current Memberships: Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association; National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges; Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association

Staff

Career Law Clerk **Richard P. Rogers** (570) 831-2531
Education: Temple 1983 JD
Judicial Assistant **Catherine M. Sisk** (570) 831-2531

Chambers of Bankruptcy Judge Mary D. France

P.O. Box 1263, Harrisburg, PA 17108
Tel: (717) 901-2845 Fax: (717) 901-2844

Mary D. France

Bankruptcy Judge

Began Service: March 3, 2003

Staff

Law Clerk **Melanie Sonnenborn** (717) 901-2845
Began Service: 2009
E-mail: melanie_sonnenborn@pawd.uscourts.gov
Career Law Clerk **John D. Kelly** (717) 901-2846
E-mail: john_kelly@pawd.uscourts.gov
Courtroom Deputy **Joan Goodling** (717) 901-2818
Judicial Secretary **Erma M. Weigel** (717) 901-2845

Chambers of Bankruptcy Judge Robert N. Opel

274 Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse, 197 South Main Street,
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701
Tel: (570) 831-2536 Fax: (570) 821-4069

Robert N. Opel

Bankruptcy Judge

Began Service: September 2006

Term Expires: September 2020

Staff

Law Clerk **William C. Blasses** (570) 826-6591
Began Service: September 2008
Term Expires: September 2010
Courtroom Deputy **Jane Tracy** (570) 826-6666
Judicial Secretary **Beth Irving** (570) 826-6318

United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel: (412) 208-7500 Tel: (412) 644-6374 (PACER)
Fax: (412) 208-7530
Internet: www.pawd.uscourts.gov

Number of Judgeships: 10

Number of Vacancies: 1

Areas Covered: Counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland

Court Staff

Clerk of the Court **Robert V. Barth** (412) 208-7500
E-mail: robert_barth@pawd.uscourts.gov
Chief Deputy **Colleen Willison** (412) 208-7518

United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania *continued*

Deputy-in-Charge - Erie **Susan Parmeter** (814) 464-9600
P.O. Box 1820, Erie, PA 16507 Fax: (814) 464-9607
17 South Park Row, Erie, PA 16501
Deputy-in-Charge - Johnstown **James Graves** (814) 533-4504
208 Penn Traffic Bldg., 319 Washington St., Fax: (814) 533-4519
Johnstown, PA 15901

Chambers of Chief Judge Gary L. Lancaster

700 Grant Street, Courtroom 3A, Suite 3250, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel: (412) 208-7400 Fax: (412) 208-7407

Gary L. Lancaster

Chief Judge

Date of Birth: 1949

Education: Slippery Rock U 1971 BS; Pittsburgh 1974 JD

Began Service: December 17, 1993

Appointed By: President William J. Clinton

Government: Regional Counsel, Human Relations Commission, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1974-1976); Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (1976-1978)

Judicial: Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (1987-1993)

Legal Practice: Sole Practitioner (1978-1979); Partner, Cooper & Lancaster (1979-1981); Brown & Smith (1981-1987)

Current Memberships: Allegheny County Bar Association; The American Inns of Court; Homer S. Brown Law Association; National Bar Association

Staff

Law Clerk **Michael L. Clements** (412) 208-7402
Began Service: 2009
Term Expires: 2010
E-mail: michael_clements@pawd.uscourts.gov
Law Clerk **Michelle A. Mantine** (412) 208-7400
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Career Law Clerk (Part-Time) **Padmaja Chivukula** (412) 208-7400
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Career Law Clerk (Part-Time) **Teresa Elliot Nixon** (412) 208-7408
Education: Vanderbilt 1996 JD
Courtroom Deputy **Michael Palus** (412) 208-7400
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Court Reporter **Richard Ford** (412) 261-0802
Judicial Assistant **(Vacant)** (412) 208-7401

Chambers of District Judge Donetta W. Ambrose

U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Suite 3280,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1906
Tel: (412) 208-7350 Fax: (412) 208-7357
E-mail: Judge_Donetta_Ambrose@pawd.uscourts.gov

Donetta W. Ambrose

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1945

Education: Duquesne 1967 BA, 1970 JD

Began Service: 1994

Appointed By: President William J. Clinton

Political Affiliation: Democrat

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable Louis L. Manderino, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania (1970); Law Clerk The Honorable Louis L. Manderino, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1971-1972)

Government: Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1972-1974); Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania (1977-1981)

Chambers of District Judge Joy Flowers Conti

5250 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 700 Grant Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel: (412) 208-7330 Fax: (412) 208-7337

**Joy Flowers Conti**

District Judge

Date of Birth: December 7, 1948

Education: Duquesne 1970 BA, 1973 JD

Began Service: August 30, 2002

Appointed By: President George W. Bush

Academic: Professor of Law, School of Law, Duquesne University (1976-1982)

Clerkships: Law Clerk, Justice Louis L. Manderino, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1973-1974)

Legal Practice: Associate, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (1974-1976); Partner, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP (1983-1996); Shareholder, Buchanan Ingersoll PC (1996-2002)

Current Memberships: Allegheny County Bar Association; American Bankruptcy Institute; American Bar Association; American Bar Foundation, American Bar Association; The Pittsburgh American Inn of Court, The American Inns of Court; American Judicature Society; The American Law Institute; Federal Bar Association; National Association of Women Judges; Pennsylvania Bar Association; Pennsylvania Bar Foundation

Staff

Law Clerk **Laurene "Beckie" Kane** (412) 208-7330
Began Service: September 2009
E-mail: lauran_kane@pawd.uscourts.gov
Law Clerk **Bradley J. Kitlowski** (412) 208-7330
Term Expires: 2010
E-mail: bradley_kitlowski@pawd.uscourts.gov
Courtroom Deputy **Sharon Conley** (412) 208-7330
Court Reporter **Karen Earley** (412) 201-2660
Judicial Assistant **Carole Leonard** (412) 208-7330

Chambers of District Judge David Stewart Cercone

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Room 7270,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel: (412) 208-7363 Fax: (412) 208-7462

David Stewart Cercone

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1952

Education: Westminster (PA) 1974 BA; Duquesne 1977 JD

Began Service: September 12, 2002

Academic: Adjunct Faculty, Robert Morris College (1993-1995)

Clerkships: Law Clerk, Judge Paul R. Zavarella, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas (1978-1979)

Government: Assistant District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney, County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (1979-1981)

Judicial: District Justice, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1982-1985)

Staff

Courtroom Deputy Clerk **Nancy Trapani** (412) 208-7363
Court Reporter **Julie A. Kienzie** (412) 261-6122
Secretary **Kimberly Weinstein** (412) 208-7363